98TH CONGRESS } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES { REPORT
1st Session } { No. 98-241

PROVIDING FOR THE COMMEMORATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF HARRY S. TRUMAN

JUNE 14, 1983.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. WHEAT, from the Committee on Rules, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Con. Res. 126]

The Committee on Rules, having had under consideration House Concurrent Resolution 126, report the same to the House, without amendment, with the recommendation that the concurrent resolution do pass.

INTRODUCTION

House Concurrent Resolution 126 was introduced by Mr. Skelton, for himself, Mr. Wheat, Mr. Wright, Mr. Clay, Mr. Young of Missouri, Mr. Gephardt, Mr. Coleman of Missouri, Mr. Emerson, Mr. Volkmer, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Pepper, on May 11, 1983, and referred to the Committee on Rules. The concurrent resolution establishes a 16-member special Joint Committee on Arrangements to provide for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Harry S. Truman. The joint committee is instructed to arrange a joint meeting of Congress on May 8, 1984, or on a day designated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, issue appropriate invitations, and coordinate its functions with the activities of the Truman Centennial Committee, Washington, District of Columbia.

The concurrent resolution further provides that the joint committee may appoint an executive director, to serve without compensation, and accept such other volunteer services as it deems appropriate.

Finally, the joint committee is authorized to spend not more than $25,000, to be paid from the contingent fund of the House of Representatives.

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Harry S. Truman, the 33d President of the United States, was born in Lamar, Mo., on May 8, 1884. Truman served in the U.S. Army during World War I, receiving a promotion to captain while

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fighting in France. After returning from the war and establishing residence in Kansas City, Truman was elected in 1922 as a judge (commissioner) of Jackson County, Mo. He was elected presiding judge in 1926 and reelected to that position in 1930.

Truman was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1934 and 1940. During his 10 years of service in the Senate, he was instrumental in enacting such major pieces of legislation as the Civil Aeronautics Act of 1938 and the Transportation Act of 1940. He proposed and served as chairman of the Senate Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program (the "Truman Committee"), which eliminated millions of dollars of waste and extravagance in the World War II defense program.

In 1944, Truman was elected Vice President of the United States under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Upon Roosevelt's death on April 12, 1945, Truman was sworn in as President, facing the responsibility for bringing a horrible and costly war to a close and preparing the citizens of the Nation for life in a profoundly changed postwar country and world.

President Truman pushed the war with Japan to an end by ordering the use of the atomic bomb. He tried to assure a lasting peace and opposition to Soviet expansion in Eastern Europe by championing the establishment of the United Nations, by securing the enactment of the Marshall plan to rebuild the economy of Western Europe, and by enunciating the "Truman Doctrine" of containing Communist expansion by means of economic and military aid to democratic countries.

On the domestic front, President Truman obtained passage of the landmark Employment Act of 1946 and the National Housing Act of 1949. He introduced legislation for national health insurance that was a forerunner of medicare and created such modern new institutions of government as the Council of Economic Advisers, the National Security Council, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

In 1948, President Truman ordered racial desegregation of the armed services and submitted the first Presidential special message on civil rights, which laid out the agenda for the civil rights reforms of the 1960's.

While his policies encouraged restoration of friendly relations with former enemies Germany and Japan, President Truman forcefully resisted Soviet policies in Europe with an airlift to blockaded Berlin and the North Korean invasion of South Korea by committing American Forces to the conflict there.

Harry S. Truman left office in January 1953 with employment and prosperity high and the western world firmly allied against possible Communist aggression.

BACKGROUND

The Congress has a long record of participation in commemorating significant dates in American history and of honoring former Presidents.

In 1924, Senate Joint Resolution 75 established a commission which planned yearlong national celebrations observing the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington. As one part of those programs, a joint session of Congress was held.

In 1959, Senate Joint Resolution 192 established a joint committee to arrange a joint session of Congress in observance of the sesquicentennial anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln. The poet Carl Sandburg was commissioned to write a tribute for the session. Congress also established a Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission which was instructed to plan extensive national observances.

Congress also created a joint committee on arrangements in the 94th Congress to provide congressional participation in the commemoration on the U.S. Bicentennial. (S. Con. Res. 44.)

Congress has appropriated funds for a number of other Presidential memorials. Among the most recent, Senate Resolution 503 in the 96th Congress provided $121,000 for the printing of a collection of essays entitled "Herbert Hoover: Reassessed." The volume commemorated the 50th anniversary of Hoover's inauguration as President. In 1974, the Congress observed the centennial anniversary of President Hoover's birth by authorizing $7 million to construct a building at the Hoover Institute at Stanford University.

Also in 1974, the Congress established a $30 million scholarship program as a national memorial to President Harry S. Truman.

On January 28, 1982, a joint meeting of the 97th Congress was held in commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Also in 1982, Congress approved construction of a permanent Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial on a 27-acre site near the Tidal Basin and the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials in Washington, D.C.

TRUMAN CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATION

House Concurrent Resolution 126 establishes a joint committee to make arrangements for a joint session of Congress to culminate the yearlong commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Harry S. Truman. The joint committee will coordinate its efforts with the activities of the Truman Centennial Committee which, along with the Truman Library and the Harry S. Truman Library Institute, is encouraging and coordinating a nationwide series of commemorative events. Events in the planning stage include major television programming and a touring exhibit. Representative Skelton has introduced legislation to provide for a commemorative postage stamp, and on May 10 of this year, Congress cleared legislation establishing the former home of Harry S. Truman in Independence, Mo., as a national historic site.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1

Establishes a special Joint Committee on Arrangements composed of 16 members who shall select a chairman and vice chairman and shall serve as follows:

(1) The President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(2) Seven Members of the Senate appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate, four upon the recommendation of the majority leader and three upon the recommendation of the minority leader.

(3) Seven Members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, three upon the recommendation of the minority leader.

Section II

Instructs the joint committee to:

(1) Arrange a joint meeting of the Congress to be held May 8, 1984, or on a day selected by the Speaker of the House.

(2) Plan the proceedings and issue appropriate invitations.

(3) Coordinate its arrangements with the activities of the Truman Centennial Committee, Washington, D.C.

Section III

Permits the joint committee to:

(1) Appoint an Executive Director to serve without compensation and to accept additional volunteer services.

(2) Adopt rules of operation and procedure.

(3) Sit and act at such times and places as it considers appropriate.

Section IV

Limits the expenses of the joint committee to $25,000 to be paid from the contingent fund of the House of Representatives.

COMMITTEE ACTION

On June 7, 1983, the Committee on Rules, which has original jurisdiction over the establishment of committees, held 1 day of hearings on House Concurrent Resolution 126. Representative Skelton presented testimony in support of the concurrent resolution.

On June 7, 1983, the Committee on Rules ordered House Concurrent Resolution 126 favorably reported without amendment by voice vote.

STATEMENT UNDER CLAUSE 2(l)(3) OF RULE XI OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A. An Oversight statement.—The committee made no special oversight findings on this concurrent resolution.

B. Budget statement.—No budget statement is submitted.

C. Estimate of the Congressional Budget Office.—No estimate or comparison was received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office as referred to subdivision (C) of clause 2(l)(3) of the House rule XI.

D. Oversight findings or recommendations of the Committee on Government Operations.—No findings or recommendations of the Committee on Government Operations were received as referred to in subdivision (C) of clause 2(l)(3) of House rule XI.

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